

In the claims:

(Cancelled): 1-47.

48. A computer network including a multi-tier licensing system comprising:

a user tier including user computers;

a remote node tier including remote nodes enabling users to run a licensed software program, at least some remote nodes allowing multiple users at multiple user computers to run the licensed software program concurrently, the remote nodes producing counts of the numbers of licensed software users associated with the remote nodes; and

a master node tier including a master node receiving the counts from the remote nodes and calculating a total number of licensed software users, the master node evaluating a license allocation condition using the total number of licensed software users.

49. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 48, wherein the remote nodes and master node run licensing software.

50. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 48, wherein the master node is selected as the master node from the nodes running the licensing software.

51. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 48, wherein the remote nodes serve the licensed software to the users in the user tier.

52. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 48, wherein a sanity scan is done on at least one subset of the remote nodes.

53. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 52, wherein a scan result message is sent to the master node with at least some of the counts.

54. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 53, wherein the master node checks whether the scan result messages has been received from all of the remote nodes and deallocates any licenses allocated to users of any of the nodes from which a scan result message has not been received.

55. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 48, wherein the master node compares the total number of licensed software users to a predetermined value.

56. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 55, wherein the master node initiates a license lockout grace period if the total number of licensed software users exceeds the predetermined value.

57. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 55, wherein the master node sends a warning message if the total number of licensed software users exceeds a predetermined value.

58. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 55, wherein the predetermined value is determined from a maximum number of licenses.

59. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 48, wherein the counts are sent to the master node asynchronously.

60. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 48, wherein the counts are sent periodically.

61. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 48, wherein computer network is a distributed computer network.

62. A multi-tier licensing system method comprising:

at remote nodes of a remote node tier, enabling users to run a licensed software program, at least some remote nodes allowing multiple users at multiple user computers of a user tier to run the licensed software program concurrently;

at the remote nodes, producing counts of the numbers of licensed software users associated with the remote nodes; and

at a master node, receiving the counts from the remote nodes and calculating a total

number of licensed software users, the master node evaluating a license allocation condition using the total number of licensed software users.

63. The method of claim 62, wherein the remote nodes and master node run licensing software.

64. The method of claim 62, wherein the master node is selected as the master node from the nodes running the licensing software.

65. The method of claim 62, wherein the remote nodes serve the licensed software to the users in the user tier.

66. The method of claim 62, wherein a sanity scan is done on at least one subset of the remote nodes.

67. The method of claim 66, wherein a scan result message is sent to the master node with at least some of the counts.

68. The method of claim 67, wherein the master node checks whether the scan result messages has been received from all of the remote nodes and deallocates any licenses allocated to users of any of the nodes from which a scan result message has not been received.

69. The method of claim 62, wherein the master node compares the total number of licensed software users to a predetermined value.

70. The method of claim 69, wherein the master node initiates a license lockout grace period if the total number of licensed software users exceeds the predetermined value.

71. The method of claim 69, wherein the master node sends a warning message if the total number of licensed software users exceeds a predetermined value.

72. The method of claim 69, wherein the predetermined value is determined from a maximum number of licenses.
73. The method of claim 62, wherein the counts are sent to the master node asynchronously.
74. The method of claim 62, wherein the counts are sent periodically.
75. The method of claim 62, wherein computer network is a distributed computer network.
76. A computer network including a multi-tier licensing system comprising:  
a user tier including user computers;  
a remote node tier including remote nodes enabling users to run a licensed software program, at least some remote nodes allowing multiple users at multiple user computers to run the licensed software program concurrently, the remote nodes producing indications of the software usage of the licensed software program by users associated with the remote nodes; and  
a master node tier including a master node receiving the indications from the remote nodes and calculating a total number of licensed software users, the master node evaluating a license allocation condition using the total number of licensed software users.
77. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 76, wherein the remote nodes and master node run licensing software.
78. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 76, wherein the master node is selected as the master node from the nodes running the licensing software.
79. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 76, wherein the remote nodes serve the licensed software to the users in the user tier.
80. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 76, wherein a sanity scan is done on at least one subset of the remote nodes.

81. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 80, wherein a scan result message is sent to the master node with at least some of the indications.

82. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 81, wherein the master node checks whether the scan result messages has been received from all of the remote nodes and deallocates any licenses allocated to users of any of the nodes from which a scan result message has not been received.

83. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 81, wherein the master node compares the total number of licensed software users to a predetermined value.

84. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 83, wherein the master node initiates a license lockout grace period if the total number of licensed software users exceeds the predetermined value.

85. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 83, wherein the master node sends a warning message if the total number of licensed software users exceeds a predetermined value.

86. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 83, wherein the predetermined value is determined from a maximum number of licenses.

87. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 81, wherein the indications are sent to the master node asynchronously.

88. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 81, wherein the indications are sent periodically.

89. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 81, wherein computer network is a distributed computer network.

90. The computer network including a multi-tier licensing system of claim 81, wherein the indications are counts of the numbers of licensed software users associated with the remote nodes.

91. A multi-tier licensing system method comprising:

at remote nodes of a remote node tier, enabling users to run a licensed software program, at least some remote nodes allowing multiple users at multiple user computers in a user tier to run the licensed software program concurrently;

at the remote nodes, producing indications of the software usage of the licensed software program by users associated with the remote nodes; and

at a master node, receiving the indications from the remote nodes and calculating a total number of licensed software users, the master node evaluating a license allocation condition using the total number of licensed software users.

92. The method of claim 91, wherein the remote nodes and master node run licensing software.

93. The method of claim 91, wherein the master node is selected as the master node from the nodes running the licensing software.

94. The method of claim 91, wherein the remote nodes serve the licensed software to the users in the user tier.

95. The method of claim 91, wherein a sanity scan is done on at least one subset of the remote nodes.

96. The method of claim 95, wherein a scan result message is sent to the master node with at least some of the indications.

97. The method of claim 96, wherein the master node checks whether the scan result messages has been received from all of the remote nodes and deallocates any licenses allocated

to users of any of the nodes from which a scan result message has not been received.

98. The method of claim 91, wherein the master node compares the total number of licensed software users to a predetermined value.

99. The method of claim 98, wherein the master node initiates a license lockout grace period if the total number of licensed software users exceeds the predetermined value.

100. The method of claim 98, wherein the master node sends a warning message if the total number of licensed software users exceeds a predetermined value.

101. The method of claim 98, wherein the predetermined value is determined from a maximum number of licenses.

102. The method of claim 91, wherein the indications are sent to the master node asynchronously.

103. The method of claim 91, wherein the indications are sent periodically.

104. The method of claim 91, wherein computer network is a distributed computer network.

105. The method of claim 91, wherein the indications are counts of the numbers of licensed software users associated with the remote nodes.